CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A storage library for recording and retrieving information from a plurality of storage media cartridges, the storage library comprising:

a housing having a left side, a right side, a front side, and a back side;

a left plurality of slots disposed proximate the left side of the housing for holding some of the plurality of storage media cartridges;

a right plurality of slots disposed proximate the right side of the housing for holding some of the plurality of storage media cartridges;

at least one media drive disposed proximate the back side of the housing; and

a robotic mechanism disposed between the left multitude of slots and the right multitude of slots, the robotic mechanism being operative to move the plurality of cartridges between the plurality of slots and the at least one media drive, wherein the robotic mechanism comprises:

a picker assembly operative to insert and remove at least one storage media cartridge of the plurality of storage media cartridges from the left plurality of slots, the right plurality of slots, and the at least one media drive;

a first linear carriage operative to move the picker assembly along a first path approximately perpendicular to the back side of the housing; and

a second linear carriage operative to move the picker assembly from a position which allows access to at least one of the left multitude of slots to a position which allows access to at least one of the right multitude of slots,

wherein the left plurality of slots, the right plurality of slots, the at least one media drive and the robotic mechanism are all coplanar with each other and wherein the front side of the housing has an opening, wherein each storage media cartridge has a label side, wherein the left and right plurality of slots and the plurality of storage media cartridges are oriented so that each

label side of the plurality of storage media cartridges is visible to an operator through the opening, and wherein each of the left and right plurality of slots are accessible to the operator via the opening for the operator to access the storage media cartridges being held by the left and right plurality of slots without complete entry of the operator into the storage library.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) In a storage library for recording and retrieving information from a plurality of storage media cartridges, the storage library

comprising a left plurality of slots disposed proximate a left side of the housing for holding some of the plurality of storage media cartridges, a right plurality of slots disposed proximate a right side of the housing for holding some of the plurality of storage media cartridges, and at least one media drive disposed proximate a back side of the housing, a method comprising the steps of:

transporting a robotic mechanism along a first linear carriage disposed between the left plurality of slots and the right plurality of slots to move along a first path approximately perpendicular to the back side of the housing; and

transporting the robotic mechanism along a second linear carriage to move the robotic mechanism from a position which allows access by the robotic mechanism to at least one of the left plurality of slots to a position which allows access by the robotic mechanism to at least one of the right plurality of slots, wherein the robotic mechanism moves along a second path approximately perpendicular to and coplanar with the first path when being transported along the second linear carriage and wherein the front side of the housing has an opening, wherein each storage media cartridge has a label side, wherein the left and right plurality of slots and the plurality of storage media cartridges are oriented so that each label side of the plurality of storage media cartridges is visible to an operator through the opening, and wherein each of the left and right plurality of slots are accessible to the operator via the opening, and further comprising a step of accessing each of the storage media cartridges being held by the left and right plurality of slots by the operator without complete entry of the operator into the storage library.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 14, further comprising the steps of inserting and removing at least one storage media cartridge of the plurality of storage media cartridges from the left plurality of slots, the right plurality of slots, and the at least one media drive by a picker assembly portion of the robotic mechanism, the picker assembly portion of the robotic mechanism being operable for inserting a storage media cartridge in a slot and removing the storage media cartridge from the slot.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) The storage library of Claim ~~17~~ 1, wherein each storage media cartridge has a bar code on the label side, the storage library further comprising a bar-code reader disposed on the robotic mechanism and operative to read the bar-code on the label side of each storage media cartridge.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~19~~ 14, wherein each storage media cartridge has a bar code on the label side, the storage library further comprising a bar-code reader disposed on the robotic mechanism and further comprising a step of reading the bar-code on the label side of at least one of the storage media cartridges.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented) A storage library for recording and retrieving information from a plurality of storage media cartridges, the storage library comprising:

a housing having a left side, a right side, a front side, and a back side;

a left plurality of slots disposed proximate the left side of the housing for holding some of the plurality of storage media cartridges;

a right plurality of slots disposed proximate the right side of the housing for holding some of the plurality of storage media cartridges;

at least one media drive disposed proximate the back side of the housing, the at least one media drive being operative to receive one storage media cartridge of the plurality of storage media cartridges through a port; and

a robotic mechanism disposed between the left multitude of slots and the right multitude of slots, the robotic mechanism being operative to move the

plurality of cartridges between the plurality of slots and the at least one media drive, wherein the robotic mechanism comprises:

a first linear carriage disposed between the left plurality of slots and the right plurality of slots, and operative to move along a first path approximately perpendicular to the back side of the housing;

a rotational carriage disposed on the first linear carriage and operative to rotate between the left plurality of slots, the right plurality of slots, and the at least one media drive; and

a picker assembly disposed on the rotational carriage and operative to insert and remove at least one storage media cartridge of the plurality of storage media cartridges from the left plurality of slots, the right plurality of slots, and the at least one media drive, wherein the at least one media drive is at least two media drives, the storage library further comprising a rear linear carriage disposed between the at least two media drives and the housing, and operative to move the at least two media drives approximately parallel to the back side of the housing to align each media drive one at a time with the picker assembly.

23. (Previously presented) A storage library for recording and retrieving information from a plurality of storage media cartridges, the storage library comprising:

a housing having a left side, a right side, a front side, and a back side;

a left plurality of slots disposed proximate the left side of the housing for holding some of the plurality of storage media cartridges;

a right plurality of slots disposed proximate the right side of the housing for holding some of the plurality of storage media cartridges;

at least one media drive disposed proximate the back side of the housing, the at least one media drive being operative to receive one storage media cartridge of the plurality of storage media cartridges through a port; and

a robotic mechanism disposed between the left multitude of slots and the right multitude of slots, the robotic mechanism being operative to move the

plurality of cartridges between the plurality of slots and the at least one media drive, wherein the robotic mechanism comprises:

a first linear carriage disposed between the left plurality of slots and the right plurality of slots, and operative to move along a first path approximately perpendicular to the back side of the housing;

a rotational carriage disposed on the first linear carriage and operative to rotate between the left plurality of slots, the right plurality of slots, and the at least one media drive; and

a picker assembly disposed on the rotational carriage and operative to insert and remove at least one storage media cartridge of the plurality of storage media cartridges from the left plurality of slots, the right plurality of slots, and the at least one media drive, wherein the front side of the housing has an opening, wherein each storage media cartridge has a label side, wherein the left and right plurality of slots and the plurality of storage media cartridges are oriented so that each label side of the plurality of storage media cartridges is visible to an operator through the opening, and wherein each of the left and right plurality of slots are accessible to the operator via the opening for the operator to access the storage media cartridges being held by the left and right plurality of slots without complete entry of the operator into the storage library.

24. (Previously presented) The storage library of Claim 23, wherein each storage media cartridge has a bar code on the label side, the storage library further comprising a bar-code reader disposed on the robotic mechanism and operative to read the bar-code on the label side of each storage media cartridge.

25. (Previously presented) The storage library of Claim 1, further comprising at least one additional slot disposed proximate the at least one media drive, wherein the picker assembly accesses the at least one additional slot using both the first linear carriage and the second linear carriage.

26. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 14, further comprising a step of transporting the robotic mechanism along the second linear carriage to move the robotic mechanism from a position which allows access by the robotic mechanism to the at least one media drive to a position which allows access by the robotic mechanism to an additional slot disposed proximate the at least one media drive.